Amendments To Specification

Replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 3-23 according to the following.

A system is disclosed that enables communication and collaboration among individuals using rich media environments. A system according to the present techniques includes a set of rich media environments each having a corresponding arrangement of sensing and rendering components for sensing ~~of~~ and rendering to a corresponding set of individuals. A system according to the present techniques includes an interest thread detector that uses the sensing and rendering components to detect multiple communication interactions among the individuals and that maintains an interest thread for each detected communication interaction and further includes a communication provider that for each interest thread captures a set of media data from a corresponding subset of the sensing components and that combines the captured media data in response to the activities of the corresponding individuals and that communicates the combined media data to a corresponding subset of the rendering components.

Replace the paragraph on page 24, lines 19-32 according to the following.

The system 10 enables a communication interaction among multiple individuals that collaborate on a shared artifact the view of which may change over time. One example of such a shared artifact is a shared virtual writing surface, e.g. a virtual whiteboard or a virtual notepad. For example, individuals may use items such as a pad of paper and a writing instrument and the system 10 uses computer vision methods to sense the writing surfaces. The obtained data from sensing writing surfaces are then rendered for the appropriate individuals ~~Individual's~~ to view via one or more

display surfaces. The data from each individual and the resulting composite virtual whiteboard may be recorded.

Replace the paragraph on page 25, lines 1-15 according to the following.

A communication interaction involving a virtual white board may include individuals located in the same rich media environment or in different rich media environments. Two or more writing surfaces may be used ~~As~~ as input to the shared virtual whiteboard. All of the writings of all individuals are discovered by cameras in the rich media environment and are rendered to the appropriate rendering devices for viewing by the individuals. These displays are preferably overlaid upon and aligned with one or more of the original input writing surfaces, via use of digital projectors. Other types of display surfaces, such as plasma, laptop, computer, or tablet computer displays may also be used.